

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BAGHDA 00340 211057 Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-12 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 CU-04 EB-11 COME-00

SCEM-02 INT-08 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /131 W

----- 014285

R 171003 Z JUN 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 407

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 340

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR

SUBJECT: CULTURAL CENTERS AND RELATIONS WITH USSR

REF: BAGHDAD 318

1. RUMANIAN CHARGE TOLD ME JUNE 16 THAT GDR, SOVIET AND CZECH CULTURAL CENTERS REMAIN CLOSED, BUT BOTH SIDES ARE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE DIFFERENCES. HE SAID CZECHS CLAIM THEY ARE GOING TO GRANT RECIPROCITY. MOST OBSERVERS NOW BELIEVE THAT CLOSURE OF CENTERS RESULTED FROM IRAQI DESIRE TO ASSERT SOVEREIGNTY THROUGH STRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF 1972 LAW GOVERNING CULTURAL RELATIONS AND RELATED DESIRE TO CURTAIL WIDESPREAD ACTIVITIES OF COMMUNIST CULTURAL CENTERS. LARGE FRENCH CENTER AND BRITISH COUNCIL HAVE NOT BEEN DISTURBED BECAUSE OF WILLINGNESS TO GRANT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BAGHDA 00340 211057 Z

FULL RECIPROCITY. THEY MAY, HOWEVER, HAVE TO ABIDE BY RECENT REGULATIONS REPORTEDLY REQUIRING REGISTRATION OF ALL VISITORS TO CENTERS AND LIMITATION ON ACTIVITIES. BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ARCHAEOLOGY, WHICH RUN BY TWO ELDERLY BRITISH WOMEN, HAS RECEIVED WITH SOME AMUSEMENT INSTRUCTION TO SUBMIT ALL SOCIAL INVITATIONS TO IRAQIS THROUGH MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

2. ALTHOUGH CLOSURE OF COMMUNIST CENTERS MAY NOT HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS ON SUBSTANCE OF IRAQ' S RELATIONS WITH USSR AND SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, IT DOES SEEM TO HAVE HAD PSYCHOLOGICAL IMPACT. INDIAN EMBOFF SAID RUSSIAN CHARGE HAD ADMITTED THAT SOVIETS WERE SURPRISED BY IRAQI MOVE, BUT THAT IT WAS MATTER THAT COULD BE RESOLVED. CHARGE ALSO SAID THAT AMBASSADOR LIKHACHEV HAD RECOMMENDED AN EARLY VISIT TO IRAQ OF FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO. FRENCH AMBASSADOR TOLD ME THAT BULGARIAN AMBASSADOR HAD COMPLAINED TO HIM THAT IRAQ WAS UNGRATEFUL TO SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. HE WAS PARTICULARLY BITTER ABOUT TERMINATION OF BARTER FOR OIL AND THAT IRAQ WAS CHARGING WESTERN OIL COMPANIES LESS FOR OIL THAN SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. FRENCH AMBASSADOR ALSO HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT USSR DISPLEASED WITH TERMINATION OF OIL BARTER AND THAT THEY REPORTEDLY TOLD GOI THAT IF THEY MUST PAY HARD CURRENCY, THEN IRAQIS MUST ALSO PAY FOR MILITARY AND OTHER EQUIPMENT WITH HARD CURRENCY. AS RESULT COMPLEX STRUCTURE OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID ACCORDS WITH USSR IS IN DANGER OF FALLING APART.

LOWRIE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BAGHDA00340
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: BAGHDAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730621/aaaajdhq.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 BAGHDAD 318
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <14-Dec-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980210
Subject: CULTURAL CENTERS AND RELATIONS WITH USSR
TAGS: PFOR, IZ, UR
To: NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO AMMAN
BEIRUT
JIDDA
MULTIPLE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

